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ABSTRACT

This book is reissued as part of the Innovators in Education Series, which brings back into print books that are both historically significant and that speak to today's educational concerns. Originally released in 1971, the book presents lessons that still apply to what doesn't work and what could work in the schools. The study of five inner-city adolescents in Washington, D.C. was conducted in 1965, as part o the study of an experimental program for teaching English in junior high school. The experiences of these students illustrate what it was, and is, to be poor, black, and trapped in a school system in which no one seems to believe in the student's potential. These adolescents hid their abilities as well as their needs from a school system that made little effort to know about either. Through their interaction with the researcher, these students became a force for educational change, but they remained aware of the realities of change. Their chief support came from each other in the face of a school that humiliated, bored, and often ignored them. (SLD)

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